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With the move the library was able to add a reading room, a place where patrons could work with the library's materials, something we take as commonplace in libraries today. In 1893 the directors of the library raised \$200 by subscription for that purpose. Before this time the library was merely a warehouse for books, where patrons could sign out and return books. The library hours were also increased – from two evenings and one afternoon each week to every weekday afternoon from 2 until 5, and evenings from 6:30 until 9.

Two conveniences we have come to expect in public libraries did not appear in Franklin until 1899 when "some shelves open to the public" were set up for the first time. Another common feature of public libraries, now obsolete with the invention of the computer, was purchased in 1899 and put into use in 1900 – the card catalogue.

At about this time, William F. Ray, one of the Directors of the Franklin Library Association, suggested in his report to the town, "... can we not reasonably hope that in the near future some son of our town. . . may gladly furnish for our Public Library a permanent building. . .?"

### For Our Public Library a Permanent Building

ix years later on October 4, 1904, the Ray Memorial building was dedicated. A gift of Mrs. Lydia Ray Peirce and Mrs. Annie Ray Thayer, the library was built to honor the memory of their parents, Joseph Gordon Ray and Emily Rockwood Ray. Joseph Gordon Ray was an extremely successful 19th century industrialist whose family established the textile industry in Franklin. It is, of course, this Ray building, together with the new wing, that now houses the Franklin books and the Franklin Public Library.

The original building was designed by Henry Hammond Gallison, a former resident of Franklin, and the design was executed by the architectural firm of Rand and Skinner. Gallison painted the murals in the room which houses the catalogue and used to house the circulation desk. In 1904 this room was called the "delivery room."